



PROFILE of Mill Woods Mapping and Beyond Committee

Vision Statement:

More effective services are delivered to children, youth and families in Mill Woods through partnering and collaborative planning by human services providers and other community organizations.

Goals:

- To better serve families, youth and children in Mill Woods.
- To strengthen partnerships between service providers in Mill Woods and area.

Expected Outcomes:

Community

- A stronger continuum of services exists for children, youth and families
- Families are more knowledgeable about services and where the services are located within Mill Woods

Human Service Providers/Partners

- To have maps available of both Mill Woods and the city to use as a planning tool.
- Increased knowledge of the population, needs, gaps in services in Mill Woods
- To maintain a Resource Directory with a process in place for updates
- That relationships between service providers are built and maintained
- Increase in meaningful involvement in collaborative planning by human service providers and other community based organizations
- That any program decisions be made collaboratively
- Participants have fun, have increased knowledge of each others systems and increased trust

A Collaborative Community Mapping Planning Process

Joint Commitment:

- February 2005: First Meeting. Discussed areas of focus: food security, ethnicity and youth
- August 2005: Set of resource focus areas and demographic maps created
- September 2005: Maps presented to Mill Woods Interagency
- April 2006: Contractor hired to complete resource directory
- July 2006: Changed name of committee to "Mapping and Beyond" with an intention to act on the information gathered
- April 2009: Partnership Agreement updated
- March 2010: Committee struggles with decreased membership and redefining its role.

Community Profile:

- April 2005: Planning of resource directory
- August 2006: Resource maps created from information collected
- September 2006: Members created contextual narratives to go with maps
- September 2008: Presented updated demographic maps (Census 2006)
- February 2009: Resource directory updated

Community Engagement:

- February 2007: Other service providers and community leaders invited to community forum. 3 focus areas emerged: Children, Youth and Cultural Diversity.
- February 2009: Forum held to report back to other service providers and community leaders about work completed since 2007. 3 existing focus areas were confirmed. New members added to subcommittees

Action:

- April 2007: Child, Youth and Cultural Diversity Subgroups began meeting. These meetings are lead by an outside facilitator to identify priorities.
- June 2007: Subgroups plan actions that meet the priority areas.
- See Profiles
- May 2009: Strategic Plan developed with 3 Areas of focus - asset building, transportation, advocacy
- November 2009: Partnered with Action for Healthy Communities to apply for SCIF grant for Asset Building Project

Reflection:

- September 2006: Identified more themes worthy of further attention, immigrant populations, aboriginal population, children, youth, housing, career and training and seniors
- November 2006: Reduced the number of themes we will work on to three; immigrants, services for children, services for youth
- June 2008: Reflection of Accomplishments to Date
- September 2008: Participated in evaluation survey regarding Mapping Services
- September 2008: Reviewed Mapping & Beyond Committee Process

Members and Organizations Represented

- ABC Head Start
- Alberta Employment and Immigration
- CFSA
- City of Edmonton Community Services
- ECCCC
- Edmonton Public Library, Mill Woods Branch
- Edmonton Public School Board
- Mill Woods Family Resource Centre
- Mill Woods Welcome Centre

Note: The above list consists of members and organizations who are actively involved in the Mapping and Beyond Steering Committee. There are also a number of organizations who only participate in the sub-committees and others who receive the minutes of the group's meetings.

Outcomes Achieved:

Human Service Providers/Partners

- Increased knowledge of the population, needs, gaps in services in Mill Woods
- To maintain a Resource Directory with a process in place for updates
- That relationships between service providers are built and maintained
- Increase in meaningful involvement in collaborative planning by human service providers and other community based organizations
- Participants have fun, have increased knowledge of each other's systems and
- increased trust

YOUTH

- A new program for traditionally uninvolved youth. A partnership between community league and human service providers
- In early phases of development of a Youth Asset Building Project that will take place in the schools. A partnership between Action for Healthy communities and Mill Woods Mapping and Beyond agencies. Project received many letters of support from a wide variety of community agencies.
- Curriculum (“A Student Voice”) developed for the Asset Building Project. This is a “community consultation” project where we will be consulting with youth about how their view their community. Partnership between human service providers and junior high schools in Mill Woods.

CHILDREN

- More aware of space available for programming
- Identified space available for the Early Headstart programs in Mill Woods
- More knowledgeable of families needs as a result of surveying families

DIVERSITY

- More aware of cultural populations and needs and strengths.
- Newcomers are more aware of resources in the community.

Date Profile Completed: March 25, 2010